



Daniel S. Greenbaum
Commissioner

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Quality Engineering

Division of Hazardous Waste

One Winter Street, Boston, Mass. 02108

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WASTE MANAGEMENT



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April 11, 1989

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Waste Management Division
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New Bedford Harbor, Project Manager
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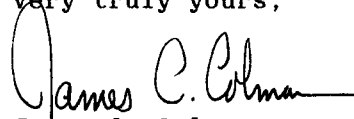
Dear Sirs:

Over the past month the Department has reviewed a proposal by EPA to divide up the work on the **New Bedford Harbor Federal Superfund Site into operable** units. The first **operable** unit to reach a record of decision will be the Hot Spot in the upper reaches of the Acushnet River Estuary. Because we believe that an operable unit for the Hot Spot will expedite decision making on remedial actions for this site, we wish to formally support the idea.

The New Bedford Harbor Feasibility Study has been conducted in three sections: The Hot Spot, the Upper Estuary and the Outer Harbor and Bay. While all these areas will be addressed under both CERCLA and Chapter 21E, the Hot Spot is a continuing source of contamination to the environment. We understand that the Hot Spot operable unit will address 13,000 cubic yards of sediments containing PCB concentrations from 4,000 to 35,000 parts per million. We believe that an operable unit to address the Hot Spot is necessary for source control and that it will facilitate the development of future remedial solutions for the New Bedford Harbor Site. Alternatives will continue to be evaluated to address the significant risks posed by contaminants on the remainder of the site. As you know, Chapter 21E requires a remedial response plan for each site which ensures a permanent solution. A remedial action for the Hot Spot portion of this site appears to be consistent with the overall development of a remedial response plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the superfund process.
Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact
Bob Bois or Helen Waldorf at 292-5819.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Colman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James C. Colman
Assistant Commissioner
Waste Site Cleanup

JCC/HW/sc

cc: Daniel Greenbaum, Commissioner
Gil Jolly, Regional Environmental Engineer
Tom Powers, Deputy Commissioner
Ken Hagg, Deputy Commissioner
Robert Donovan, Deputy Regional Environmental Engineer
Robert Bois
Helen Waldorf
Nancy Preis
Technical Review Team